

COUNCIL BRIEFS

June 19, 2015

K-9 Hero of 2014! Our very own K-9 Jett and his handler Officer Tom Lazure were selected as one of the six Hero K-9's from the New England chapter of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers. You can help the West Hartford team win the K-9 Hero of the Year by [casting your vote for "F."](#) The winner will be announced at the start of the July 27th Boston Red Sox game. Officer Tom Lazure and K-9 Jett were also selected as winners of the **2014 Daniel Wasson Memorial Canine Award** from the CT Police Work Dog Association. This is the second time the K-9 team has received this prestigious award. Only two teams have received the award twice in the association's 23 year history.

Generous donations support Human Services programs: Bugbee Elementary School held its second annual Fill-a-Bus event on June 5 in which students, staff, and parents literally filled a bus (and a few extra vehicles) with more than 4,700 non-perishable items. The substantial food drive will restock pantry shelves after a slow spring and help prepare for the summer months when contributions tend to decline.

Just a few days later, Morley Elementary students marched to Town Hall for the 7th annual Backpack Brigade. The students, staff, and families carried 395 donated backpacks, many filled with school supplies, for the Human Services' Back-to-School program. The event supplied more than half of the backpacks needed for the program, which benefits over 650 low-income West Hartford students. The Department of Human & Leisure Services is truly grateful for this overwhelming generosity.

Meet Your Neighborhood Police Officer: The Police Department has begun a special "Meet Your Beat Officer" program as a way for neighborhood residents and businesses get to know the local bicycle officer who is assigned to their area of town. The community is invited to bring their concerns or questions, or just stop by for a cup of coffee and say Hello. WHPD will have

information on special community programs and will be ready to listen. These meetings will be held frequently throughout the summer at various locations within the officers' beat districts. The first meet-and-greet was held on June 17 at A.C. Petersen's restaurant and the next will be held on June 22, 9:00-10:00 AM at the Elmwood Pastry Shop with Officer Aaron Vafiades, who patrols the Beachland Park, Elmwood and New Britain Avenue area.

Prospect Avenue bridge: Construction work on the Prospect Avenue bridge is nearing completion. On June 19, the two travel lanes on the west side of the bridge will be milled and a first course of pavement applied. On Monday and Tuesday, the contractor will pave the final surface over the entire bridge. Upon completion, all four travel lanes on the bridge will be re-opened to traffic on Tuesday.

The Bridge Family Center's 46th Annual Meeting: On June 9th, executive director Margaret Hann shared highlights from the non-profit's 46th year in operation, including the opening of its third mental health clinic in Avon; Baby Book Worms, a new Family Resource Center program which introduces families to interactive read-a-louds and vocabulary words; and the success of exceeding its fundraising goals.

Ms. Hann also presented the 10th annual Bridge Business Award to e-Benefits Group Northeast for its continued support of the Bridge mission.

Lightbulb fundraiser: The West Hartford Clean Energy Task Force brings you an environmentally-friendly LED light bulb fundraiser with 50% of the proceeds going to The Town that Cares! Go to [Shining Solutions](#) and buy a 4-pack of 60W equivalent (warm white, dimmable) LED lightbulbs for only \$10 and begin saving on electricity. The fundraiser runs until June 30. Orders are delivered to Town Hall.

Ronald F. Van Winkle
Town Manager